



A safe home is in your hands.



Use the following checklist as a guide to help protect your home and family from fires and burns.

Learn more about actions you can take to keep your family safe in and around your home in Home Safety Council's Safety Guide including:

- Fire Prevention
- Fire Escape Planning
- Smoke Alarms
- Fire Extinguishers
- Burns
- Home Fire Sprinkler Systems



Fire Safety Checklist

Smoke Alarms

- ___ Have you installed smoke alarms on every level of your home and near every sleeping area?
- ___ Have you pushed the "test button" on smoke alarms to ensure everyone will recognize the sound of the alarm?
- ___ Are smoke alarms mounted high on walls or ceilings away from windows, doors and ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation?
- ___ Are smoke alarms located well away from the path of steam from bathrooms and cooking vapors from the kitchen, which can result in false or nuisance alarms?
- ___ Do you test your smoke alarms once a month to make sure they are working, and replace the batteries every year?
- ___ Have you considered installing hard-wired, interconnected smoke alarms with battery back-up so that if one alarm operates, they all signal together?
- ___ Do you replace your smoke alarms when they are 10 years or older?
- ___ Are your smoke alarms listed by Underwriters Laboratories (UL)?

Fire Escape Plans

- ___ Have you identified two exits out of every room?
- ___ Does your family have a designated meeting place outside of your home?
- ___ Does your family practice a home fire escape plan twice a year?
- ___ Have you sketched out a floor plan of your home, including all rooms, windows, interior and exterior doors, stairways, fire escapes and smoke alarms? Is every family member familiar with the layout?



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Fire Safety Checklist, continued

- ___ Have you identified and remedied anything in your home that could interfere with your ability to get out quickly in an emergency including windows that are stuck, heavy furniture blocking an exit and broken and dangerous locks?
- ___ Are you careful to always keep escape routes clear of clutter?
- ___ Have you replaced two-keyed deadbolt locks (require a key inside) which can delay a quick exit, and made sure that security bars on doors and windows have a quick-release mechanism?
- ___ If you have a multi-story home, have you considered purchasing fire escape ladders for upstairs bedrooms?
- ___ If you have fire escape ladders, have you opened them safely from a ground-floor window for practice?
- ___ Have you pushed the “test button” on a smoke alarm to ensure everyone will recognize the sound of the alarm?
- ___ Have you ensured that family members with special needs, such as ill or frail family members or small children, have a buddy to help them get out safely?
- ___ If anyone in the household has a hearing impairment, have you purchased special smoke alarms that use strobes and/or vibrations to signal a fire?
- ___ Do family members know to get out first if there is a fire, and then call for help once safely outside?
- ___ Have you made copies of the escape plan sketches and posted them in a visible area of your home?
- ___ Do you hold family fire drills frequently and at various times so your escape plans become second nature?
- ___ Have you held a drill when family members are sleeping to test each family member's ability to waken and respond to the smoke alarm?
- ___ If someone cannot awaken to the smoke alarm, has a family member been assigned to waken them for future fire drills and in an emergency?
- ___ During your fire drill, have you practiced what it would be like to escape through smoke by getting down on hands and knees and crawling below the smoke to the nearest exit?
- ___ Has your family practiced feeling doors before opening them to escape, by testing for warmth with the back of the hand?



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Fire Safety Checklist, continued

Fire Prevention

- ___ Are flammable items, such as fertilizers and turpentine, kept in their original containers in a locked storage area separate from the home?
- ___ Is gasoline stored in a garage or shed in a container approved for gasoline storage?
- ___ Are you careful not to bring or use gasoline indoors?
- ___ Do you keep things that can burn away from your fireplace and keep a glass or metal screen in front of your fireplace?
- ___ Do you have chimneys, fireplaces, wood and coal stoves, central furnaces and space heaters inspected by professionals once a year and cleaned regularly?
- ___ Do you keep space heaters at least three feet away from combustibles, such as curtains or stacks of newspaper, and always turn off heaters when leaving the room or going to bed?
- ___ Do you keep matches and lighters in a locked cabinet?
- ___ Do you always stay in the kitchen when food is cooking on the stove?
- ___ Do you keep things that can burn, such as dishtowels, paper or plastic bags, and curtains at least three feet away from the range top?
- ___ Do you douse cigarette and cigar butts with water before dumping them in the trash?
- ___ Are you careful not to wear loose-fitting clothing when cooking which can be ignited by hot burners?
- ___ Are you careful not to leave barbecue grills unattended while in use?
- ___ Do you keep grills away from play areas and at least three feet away from other objects, including the house and any shrubs or bushes?
- ___ Are you careful not to bring a barbecue grill indoors?
- ___ Are you careful not to leave burning candles unattended?
- ___ Do you keep candles out of the reach of children and pets?
- ___ Are you careful not to allow children to keep candles or incense in their room?
- ___ Are you careful not to overload electrical outlets, extension cords and power strips?
- ___ Do you check all wires and cords for damage and cover all unused electrical outlets?